

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Frederic P. Field et al.  
Serial No.: 10/039,601  
Filing Date: 10/19/2001  
Title: SURGICAL SUTURING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD  
OF USE  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: Gary Jackson  
Attorney's Docket No.: ONUX-17


Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

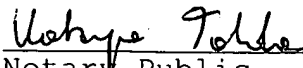
AFFIDAVIT VERIFYING APPLICATION

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
County of Middlesex

I, Mark J. Pandiscio, being duly registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and being duly sworn, depose and state that: I am attorney of record in the above-identified pending prior application Serial No. 10/039,601, filed 10/19/2001, and that the enclosed application is a true and complete copy of the prior application Serial No. 10/039,601 as filed, and that no amendments referred to in the oath or declaration filed to complete the prior patent application Serial No. 10/039,601 introduced new matter therein.

 12/16/03  
Mark J. Pandiscio  
Registration No. 30,883

Sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2003.

  
Notary Public  
My commission expires: 4/17/09